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EDITORIAL

Condemn and resist the US terrorist war of aggression

The Communist Party of the Philippines condemns the heinous crashing of four civilian airplanes in New York, Washington DC and Pennsylvania in the US that killed thousands of innocent civilians. The deliberate and malicious attack on the innocent can never be justified even if it is claimed to be in retaliation for similar acts of terrorism by US imperialism.

However, what is more abominable is how this incident is being exploited to advance US imperialist interests. The US is currently drumbeating what it calls a “war against terrorism” in order to justify measures to expand its military power, particularly in Central and South Asia, threaten the sovereignty of all nations across the world especially those with anti-US standpoints, further subjugate the puppet regimes under imperialist hegemony and impede the revolutionary struggles of the world’s peoples.

US IMPERIALISM HAS BLOODIED HANDS IN ITS LONG HISTORY OF SOWING TERRORISM and massacring millions of ordinary people around the world. The scars of this terrorism are forever etched in the collective memory of the countries attacked and plundered by US imperialism. Who can forget the first wave of US terrorism in the 20th century where 400,000 ordinary Filipinos were killed when the United States seized the Philippines? the more than 100,000 civilians killed by US imperialism when it dropped atomic bombs over population centers of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945? or the millions of people from Vietnam to Iraq, Nicaragua to Yugoslavia, who were killed in the US’ wars of aggression aimed at establishing its power all over the world?

US imperialism is ultimately responsible for the terrorism that is now hurting innocent Americans. It is the US that began targeting civilian populations, discarding and mocking the laws and standards of carrying out civilized war.

The terrorism that the US is now condemning is the offspring of its own



terrorism. In fact, Osama bin Laden, the US’ prime suspect in the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, was under the protection and care of the CIA during the armed opposition against the Soviet forces in Afghanistan in the 1980s. In the same manner, the US supported the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) which it formerly labeled as terrorist, when NATO attacked Yugoslavia in 1999 to overthrow the government of Slobodan Milosevic. But since NATO is now in favor of the new government, it is now disarming the KLA. The Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines, mercenary terrorists trained by the US in Afghanistan when the US was in cahoots with bin Laden, was employed to oppose the revolutionary struggle

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CONTENTS

- 1** **Editorial:** Condemn and resist the terrorist war of aggression
- 3** Terrorist crimes of the US and its fascist puppets
- 4** Vulnerability of imperialist economy exposed in attack on US
- 6** Strategic imperialist interests in Afghanistan
- 7** Intensifying reaction in the Philippines and overseas
- 9** An important breakthrough in achieving unity on Iloco writing and translation
- 11** Vigorous, swift and effective action of the masses in the guerrilla zones
- 13** Operations of the Force Recon Battalion of the Philippine Marines
- 15** RHB: Criminal and counterrevolutionary
- 17** CPLA officially integrated into the AFP
- 18** NEWS

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of the Bangsamoro people.

IN RESPONSE TO THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON NEW YORK AND Washington, the Bush government is now unleashing a worse kind of terrorism. The entire US Congress has allocated \$40 billion in initial funding for the “war against terrorism” and has given Bush a wide range of powers to wage war.

The US is now employing brusque diplomacy and economic sanctions against countries which did not immediately voice out support for US militarism and jingoism. Bush has declared an ultimatum: that any nation that does not support the “war against terrorism” will be considered in league with the terrorists. As a further means of arm-twisting, the US has listed 60 countries which are supposedly involved in terrorism. As a result, the leaders of these countries, including the Philippines, have scrambled to declare support for the US, fearing that the US may make them targets of aggression or impose sanctions such as an aid, funds or trade embargo.

Meanwhile, more than 20,000 US troops, warships and aircraft are now deployed in strategic positions in and around the Middle East and are just awaiting orders from Bush to carry out the actual attack against Afghanistan and other targets.

US imperialism has asserted that this war will be like no other in the past. It will be launched on all fronts—in the military, economic, diplomatic, political and other fields. US imperialism is preparing the American people to brace themselves against a bloody war that may last up to 10 years. It will simultaneously employ overt and covert methods, with the latter actually referring to “dirty means” violative of humanitarian law and civilized standards of war. The US is now intensifying the civil war in Afghanistan by supporting the Northern Alliance which are enemies of the Taliban. It has suspended certain provisions of the rules of war. The US government now openly endorses and is instigating political assassinations of its perceived enemies.

Bush has declared that the “war against terrorism” will cover the entire globe. It will definitely be employed to further uphold US power by positioning US military forces around the world and launching terrorist attacks against governments and peoples fighting US hegemony and waging revolutionary struggle to attain national and social liberation.

AS IT GROWS EVER DESPERATE, IMPERIALISM BECOMES EVER RUTHLESS in unleashing terrorism. Yet, this can only stir up just resistance and revolutionary struggles among peoples the world over. It is the revolutionary struggle of the world’s peoples that shall defeat US imperialism, local reaction and all forms of terrorism. As US imperialism and the entire capitalist system experience a deepening and widening economic crisis, the revolutionary struggles of the proletariat and the world’s peoples gain further strength. It is this struggle that shall bury imperialism and uphold freedom, democracy and socialism. **AB**

Terrorist crimes of the US and its fascist puppets

After World War II, US imperialism unleashed unprecedented violence on the world, in a desperate attempt to stem the tide of anti-imperialist, national liberation and socialist movements. In this period, an estimated 8,000,000 people were killed by US terrorism and military actions. The US scornfully brands civilian targets as “collateral damage”. Among its most brutal crimes are the following:

VIETNAM WAR: The US waged war on Vietnam from 1954-1975 to thwart the efforts of the People’s Democratic Republic of Vietnam to reunite North and South Vietnam under its leadership. More than four million people were killed when the US used napalm bombs (a type of incendiary bomb), dropped thousands of tons of conventional bombs and unleashed chemical weapons aside from hamletting the population and incarcerating, torturing and indiscriminately firing on them.

Among the victims were 500 people who were massacred in the village of My Lai in March 1968. Another heinous crime was the spraying of more than 18 million gallons of Agent Orange, a chemical that killed and poisoned more than 1.6 million hectares of land and mountainous areas. This also caused the outbreak of numerous diseases among the people. As a result of exposure to Agent Orange, a large percentage of pregnant women suffer miscarriages or give birth to infants with congenital defects.

KOREAN WAR: In a desperate bid to block the expansion of the democratic and socialist government throughout the entire Korean peninsula, US imperialism launched a war against the people of Korea from 1950 to 1953. About 2.8 million people died due to bombings or strafing of civilian population centers and the execution of prisoners of war. A distinct example is the American soldiers’ massacre of hundreds of South Korean civilians in No Gun Ri in 1950.

SUPPORT OF FASCIST REGIMES: The US supported the 1954 coup d’état in Guatemala that resulted in four decades of fascist rule and the death of more than 120,000 Guatemalan peasants.

The US was also behind the 1973 coup d’état that overthrew the progressive government of Salvador Allende in Chile and resulted in the killing of 30,000

people. Also, in 1965, the US supported Suharto’s coup d’état against the Sukarno government in Indonesia. Suharto ordered the killing of more than 800,000 Indonesians and the imprisonment of more than 500,000. When the Suharto regime occupied East Timor in 1975, more than 250,000 innocent civilians were massacred with the direct knowledge of the highest-ranking US officials.

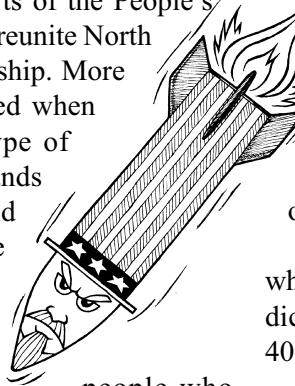
In the Philippines, the US supported martial law which Marcos imposed in 1972. In 24 years of Marcos dictatorial rule, thousands were killed and more than 40,000 activists and oppositionists were imprisoned.

IRAN, 1953: The US conspired with British imperialism to overthrow the government of Mohammed Musaddiq after the latter nationalized the oil industry. The kingdom of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi was restored to power. Under his rule from 1953 to 1979, more than 70,000 Iranis were killed.

PALESTINE: The US and Great Britain instituted the Zionist occupation of Palestine through the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. The Palestinian people continue to resist Israel. In 1987, during the Intifada, more than 300 Palestinians were killed by Israeli soldiers and more than 11,500 people were wounded, majority of whom were under 15 years of age. By the mid-1990s, more than 800 had been killed and 16,000 imprisoned. The US supports Israel’s continued attacks against the Palestinian people.

LIBYA: The US launched unbridled attacks and bombed the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi in Libya in the 1980s. The US likewise imposed an economic embargo to apply further pressure.

CUBA: The US attempted to overthrow the Cuban government by bombing the latter’s airbases and launching an attack by more than 1,000 Contras trained by the Central Intelligence Agency. An economic embargo has been imposed on Cuba for more than 40



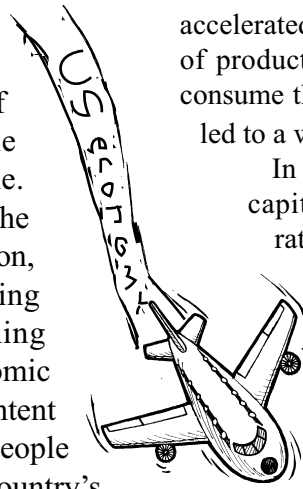
Vulnerability of imperialist economy exposed in attack on US

US imperialism's declaration of a "war against terrorism" is being done in the context of an economic crisis consequent to the bursting of the "new economy" bubble. Even before the September 11 attacks, the US had already begun to slip into recession, marked by a shrinking market, growing losses among big businesses, worsening unemployment and other negative economic indicators. It is also the US' malicious intent to divert the attention of the American people who are restive over the fact that their country's economy continues to sink into recession. A war of aggression in the form of a "war against terrorism" is a desperate albeit an old method resorted to by US imperialism to revitalize its moribund economy.

Early this year, the cyclical recession or decline of the US economy and the international capitalist system was already approaching a new stage. This process has been exacerbated by a crisis of overproduction due to

accelerated improvements in technology and the pace of production in the face of the market's inability to consume the resulting excess production. This has now led to a worldwide collapse in capitalist production.

In the second half of this year, the international capitalist economy suffered a negative growth rate, the first in 20 years. Worldwide industrial production declined by 6%. In the past 10 months, industrial production in the US has been plagued by continuously dwindling growth rates. This period of decline has been the longest since 1983. In the second quarter, annual overall production in the US grew by a mere 0.2%—the lowest since 1983. In the same period, investments dropped by 15%, company profits declined by 67% and 271,000 more swelled the ranks of the unemployed in the US. From a higher growth rate, overall production in Europe has also dropped to 0.2%. A steeper decline has been noted in Japan where industrial production has plummeted by 15% and investments have fallen by 18%. The export-based "emerging markets" of Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, ►



◄ years. To enforce the embargo, US warships regularly patrol the seas surrounding Cuba.

NICARAGUA AND EL SALVADOR, 1980s: The US directly supported and trained the Contra terrorist group to overthrow the anti-US government in Nicaragua. More than 30,000 innocent citizens were killed by the Contras' rabid attacks. Part of the Contras' schemes was to plant mines in shipping ports.

In El Salvador, the US actively supported the counterrevolutionary war that resulted in the death of 80,000 people.

PANAMA: Eight thousand people were killed in December 1989 when the US attacked Panama to capture

the president, Gen. Manuel Noriega, a druglord and former CIA agent. The US invoked Noriega's involvement in drug pushing as a pretext. The bigger reason was Noriega's insistence on Panamanian control over the Panama Canal and his withdrawal of support for the Contras in Nicaragua.

Iraq: More than 200,000 Iraqi citizens, including women and children, were killed by US bombings of civilian establishments and public infrastructure in 1991. One of the most evil deeds perpetrated by the US was the criminal elimination on February 26-27, 1991 of tens of thousands of retreating Iraqi soldiers along the 60-mile highway lining the Kuwaiti shoreline. The continuing imposition of an "economic

embargo" on Iraq has resulted in the deaths of more than 1.5 million Iraqis, including 5,000 children who die each month.

YUGOSLAVIA, 1999: Yugoslavia was relentlessly bombed to oust the Milosevic government and to impose the authority of US imperialism in the Balkan Peninsula. Prior to this, the US and Germany fomented ethnic wars by funding and arming the various ethnic groups and inciting nationalism and racism. Hundreds of thousands died in the ethnic wars in Croatia (1991-92) and in Bosnia-Herzegovina (1992-1995) when these states seceded from Yugoslavia, while millions were displaced from their countries and deprived of their livelihood. ■

Singapore, Taiwan and Malaysia had all gone ahead in plunging into recession. The same internal trend in the US economy and in the international capitalist system has been overtaken and worsened by the attacks in New York and Washington DC on September 11.

Because of the fear and instability accompanying the terrorist attacks and the Bush government's militarist response, the travel industry has further collapsed, especially the airlines industry and related services. Airlines lost \$550 million in the mere two days after the incident when not a single airplane flew. The main airport in Washington DC as well as smaller airports adjacent to it remain closed.

The incidents have had staggering consequences especially on workers in the airline and airplane manufacturing industries. As of September 26, up to 150,000 workers in the airline, aerospace and other related industries have been laid off or are set to be dismissed in the next months in the US alone. The number of laid off workers continues to rise. The 4.9% unemployment rate in August is the worst since the widespread financial crisis that exploded in Asia in 1997. This figure is now estimated to reach 7.1%. Boeing, the leading manufacturer of aircraft for military and commercial use, is set to lay off the biggest number of workers (30,000).

Aside from the airline and aircraft manufacturing industries, also terribly hit were the travel and related industries in the US, such as hotels and resorts, shopping malls, gambling casinos in Las Vegas and other areas. Bush has called on the people of the US to travel and go to shop-

ping malls, supposedly as a patriotic activity.

Five days after the stock market opened following the attacks in the US, the overall stock market fell by 14.3% in the US with a loss of \$1.4

alone, the US government would need up to \$24 billion. The US government estimates that it would need a total of about \$180 billion to prevent the decline of all industries affected by the attacks. Nonetheless,

it is helpless to avert the certainty of a recession that is sure to worsen, along with the ongoing recession afflicting the entire international capitalist system.

The negative trend already manifested in the international capitalist economy in the middle of this year is now set to worsen due to the events that have transpired in the US. The international capitalist economy is expected to suffer an absolute decline of 2.2% this year and in 2002.

Number of laid off and to be laid off workers in specific US industries (September 11-26)

US industry	Total Number
Airline	106,290*
Aerospace/ Defense contracts	38,900
Finance	1,300*
Manufacturing	4,300
Technology	3,790
Tourism	1,200
Total	155,780

** More job cuts have been announced but no definite figures have been given. (Data from Washington Post)*

trillion.

The insurance sector has likewise been intensely affected. Insurance companies around the world have lost an estimated \$30-\$40 billion or 30% of their total capital. Companies with the biggest insurance coverages of those who died, of the airplanes and buildings that were destroyed as well as the other casualties of the attacks on the US are in danger of complete collapse. They will attempt to recoup losses by raising insurance premiums, charging this to passengers and airline companies. This will result in higher plane fares.

Because of these industries' losses, the US government is estimated to have lost \$50-\$60 billion in taxes, tariffs and other fees due it this year.

The US economy is estimated to have incurred \$100 billion in direct losses. An estimated \$60 billion is needed to repair damaged buildings in New York and at the Pentagon. For saving the overall airline industry

FURTHER WORSENING OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE PHILIPPINES

In the face of developments in the US, the Philippine economy is expected to be mired deeper in crisis. The IMF has forecast a 2.5% gross domestic product growth rate for the Philippines in 2001. The IMF had optimistically set a growth rate of 3%. The Macapagal-Arroyo regime had previously set its sights on a 3.3% growth target.

The Philippines' already low credit rating is likewise set to deteriorate. Leading imperialist institutions concerned with making economic analyses and investment advisories on various countries have classified the Philippines among countries that investors should shun. International investment company ING Barings also considers the Philippine economy as fourth in its list of "newly emerging economies" that are most vulnerable to being pulled

◀ down with the further decline of the US economy. This is due to the Philippine economy's excessive dependence on the US economy and, in particular, on its exports to the US.

WITH THE EXPECTED WORSENING OF the already dismal situation besetting export-oriented industries, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) has warned of a new round of layoffs in this sector. The dismissals are a reaction of capitalists to lower than expected orders from the US. In the past 18 months, up to 43,000 workers have been laid off in the electronics and construction sectors. Recently, the country's overall exports of electronic

spare parts fell by 30%.

In this regard, more companies are expected to close shop. Even before the September 11 attacks in the US, up to 1,300 companies had closed down in the face of a slowdown in worldwide production. This number is higher than the 1,100 companies that closed shop in the whole of 2000.

Even prior to the September 11 attacks, businessmen in the country were already constantly talking about the need to lessen the country's dependence on the US economy and the US export market. Even Macapagal-Arroyo, in her State of the Nation Address, has admitted that the country's export economy had no chance of recovering. But the

sole and seemingly simple way they see of lessening such dependence is to encourage the people to patronize Philippine-made products. The leading problem of imperialist domination over the country has not even been remotely considered.

But before any favorable resolution of the country's economic problems could be expected, it is first necessary for the country to be liberated from imperialist rule and for the imperialist-dominated semicolonial and semifeudal system in the country to change through a people's democratic revolution. Any hope of resolving the country's economic problems before national liberation is achieved will be elusive. **AB**

Strategic imperialist interests in Afghanistan

The investigation had yet to yield results, but US imperialism has already pointed its finger at Osama bin Laden as its number one suspect in the September 11 attacks. The US' mobilization of military forces for its "war against terrorism" is focused mainly on waging war against Afghanistan. Beyond the declared objective of capturing and punishing bin Laden, there is a more strategic objective behind launching a war against the Taliban government and strengthening US presence in the Central and South Asian region. At present, US influence is weakest in this area.

Afghanistan lies in the southern part of Central Asia. On its west is Iran; on its north, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan; on its east, China; and on its south is Pakistan. Since the Soviet-supported government collapsed in 1991, Afghanistan has been in the midst of a civil war fought by the different groups supported by the imperialists in the 1980s. In 1996, the Taliban group seized Kabul, the center of Afghan government. At present, the Taliban controls most of the territory except for some parts in the north which is under the control of the Northern Alliance, an aggregate of various groups now supported by the US.

Until recently, the Taliban enjoyed the US' full backing. In fact, the US welcomed the Taliban's seizure of power in 1996 as "a good thing" because it viewed



the latter as anti-Iran and pro-US.

The US placed more value on its relationship with the Taliban when Unocal—an American monopoly oil corporation—still had prospects of laying a 1,300-kilometer oil and natural gas pipeline between Central Asia and the Arabian Sea. A large portion of the pipeline would have passed through Afghanistan, from Chardzhou in northern Turkmenistan, towards the shore of Gwadar in Pakistan along the Arabian Sea. The project was forged in an agreement between Unocal and the government of Turkmenistan and would have cost \$8 billion.

But in 1997, the Taliban set aside the agreement and granted the project to Bridas Oil, an Argentine company. The US has since been antagonistic, using Osama bin Laden as pretext. **AB**

Using the US war of aggression as rationale



Intensifying reaction in the Philippines and overseas

US imperialism and its allies are currently taking full advantage of their declared “war against terrorism” to impose reaction worldwide and intensify aggression for worldwide hegemony.

In Western Europe, suppression and discrimination against Arabs, Muslims and even other foreigners and migrants from Third World countries have been stepped up. In the name of

tightened security, surveillance operations, arrests and other forms of harassment are being perpetrated against the people. One of the groups most vulnerable to such attacks are migrant Filipinos, since they often comprise the biggest migrant group in various parts of the world. Migrant Filipinos who are members of anti-imperialist and progressive forces have been

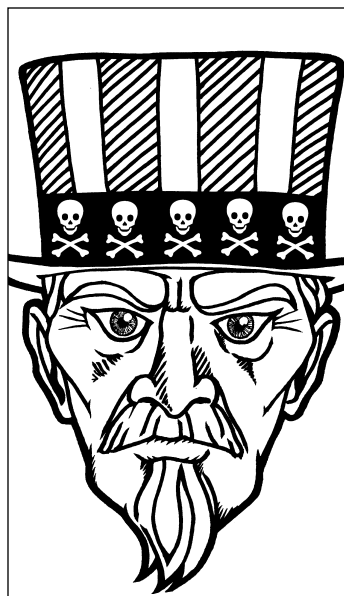
singled out as the foremost target of harassment in the blind search for “terrorists” being conducted by the police in Western countries.

In the Philippines, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime is likewise using the US war of aggression as its rationale for tightening its grip on the people and launching more intense attacks against the revolutionary movement.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FILIPINOS CONDEMNED

Migrante-Europe has vigorously condemned the illegal arrest by the Belgium police of 30 migrant Filipinos on September 20. Their homes were raided at dawn and their personal papers and belongings ransacked and their cellphones, address books and telephone directories confiscated. They were detained in separate rooms for almost half a day, interrogated and denied food. The police did not even consider the fact that those they were harassing had their small children with them. The interrogation was concentrated on members of Ugnayan ng mga Pilipino sa Belgium and the Cordillera-Belgium Association, both member organizations of Migrante-Europe, an alliance of democratic mass organizations of migrants in Europe. Aside from Filipinos, the Belgian police also harassed migrants from other countries (Pakistanis, Albanians, Algerians, Poles, Spaniards and Portuguese) and even progressive Belgians.

In the face of such abuse, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime did nothing to protect the welfare of migrant Filipinos. Worse, Philippine officials were quick to defend the racism of Belgium on the pretext that the arrests were “routine” and that those who were illegally arrested were immediately released. In addition, the Department of Foreign Affairs called on Filipinos to “be careful” and “avoid being conspicuous” to authori-



ties of their host countries. Migrante-International and representatives of Bayan Muna in Congress have proposed that a diplomatic protest be filed over the incident.

Tighter repression in Belgium, especially against anti-imperialist and progressive forces and migrants is due to the fact that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the military alliance of the US and imperialist countries in Europe, has its headquarters here.

NATO fully supports the US’ “war against terrorism”.

MACAPAGAL-ARROYO REGIME’S ALL-OUT SUPPORT FOR IMPERIALISM AND FASCISM

In the name of the “anti-terrorism campaign”, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime has also immediately implemented worse antinational and anti-democratic measures pushed by its imperialist and fascist backers. These measures have been capsulized in the regime’s

“14 pillars”.

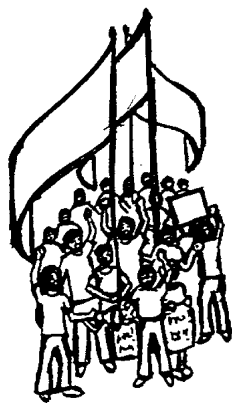
Even in the absence of a behest from the US, Macapagal-Arroyo has given her full support and go-signal for everything the US wants to do. In violation of the government’s own constitution, she has given blanket authority to US aircraft, seacraft and military troops to utilize Subic, Clark Field (Diosdado Macapagal Airport) and Mactan Airport (Benito Ebuena Airbase) and the country’s entire airspace, without the necessity of a signed treaty or access agreement. The US Pacific Fleet commander has duly toured and inspected these facilities and outlined the US’ plans for using them for its war. The regime has unabashedly allowed the country’s sovereignty to be trampled on and has disregarded the Filipino people’s victory in their historic struggle against the military bases.

Even with the economy in dire straits, the regime has also offered other assistance in the form of food donations, medicines, doctors and others. Macapagal-Arroyo has also offered to send soldiers to participate in the US war of aggression against other countries.

She has also expressed openness for the US to intervene directly in the country, not only against local terrorists, but especially against the revolutionary forces.

She has likewise agreed to proposals to implement the National ID System, which has several times been rejected by the people and even by the Supreme Court in 1998. Malacañang has set up a group to study mechanisms for the implementation of the “One-ID system”, the regime’s new name for the National ID System. This system, which has time and again been pushed by militarists, will suppress the people’s civil liberties and democratic rights. Its primary objective is to fight the growing revolutionary movement. Democratic organizations including the Kilusang Mayo Uno, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan ang Bayan Muna have strongly assailed this scheme.

The regime is also exploiting the war hysteria to set aside its peace talks with the NDFP and rationalize its plan to intensify attacks against the revolutionary forces. Despite an agreement to push through with the talks in October, the GRP has suddenly suspended the peace talks indefinitely and is preparing further assaults on the revolutionary forces.



All democratic forces must thoroughly resist the suppressive schemes of the Macapagal-Arroyo regime perpetrated in the name of the “war against terrorism”. Such resistance is part of the emerging broad international front against US intervention, terrorism and aggression.

US WAR OF AGGRESSION AND INTENSIFIED REACTION ASSAILED BY DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN THE COUNTRY

The US’ declaration of a war of aggression and the Macapagal-Arroyo regime’s obsequious support for the latter as well as reaction’s exploitation of the situation to advance counterrevolution and the suppression of progressives and a people in resistance have reaped criticism from various progressive and democratic forces in the country.

Even during the commemoration of the 29th anniversary of martial law, the condemnation of the “anti-terrorist war” was linked to the fact that human rights violations are intensifying and that militarism continues to hold the country hostage.

A coalition was also formed on September 24 against the US’ war of aggression. The “Justice Not War Coalition” includes representatives from the Moro-Christian People’s Alliance, Promotion of Church People’s Response, Migrante-International, Gabriela, BAYAN, KMU and Anakbayan. Among its leaders is Dante Vizmanos, a former Philippine Navy captain, military affairs adviser of the Nuclear Free Philippines Coalition and convenor of the Junk VFA Movement. Along with calling for justice for all victims of the terrorist attacks in the US, the coalition also called for justice for the victims of the US’ long history of terrorism, from its interventionist genocidal war in the Philippines to its continued bombing of Iraq.

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How should “odd jobbers” be translated? *Mangmangged a kumpormi la ditan ti serserken da?* (workers who enter an assortment of occupations); *no anya la ditan ti panggedan da?* (engaging in an assortment of livelihoods); *uray no ania la’t pamastrekan da?* (going into

Iloco is one of the major languages in the Philippines. It is used by more than 8,000,000 people in most of Northern Luzon. Iloco is also the lingua franca or common but secondary language of the various

On the matter of spelling and grammar, the existence of two opposing conventions was noted—between the familiar and widespread system used by *Bannawag* (the Iloco version of the magazine-comics *Liwayway*) and translators of the Bible on the one hand and the system based on modern Pilipino and which were in accordance with the rules set by the National Translation Bureau. For instance, the matter of whether the old spelling should be changed (“rebolusion” would be spelled “rebolusyon”) or whether pronouns should be separated from nouns (as in the case of *dagatayo* or “our land”) to make two words—

daga tayo—was a major point of contention. In the end, both sides reached an agreement by giving great consideration to the need to: (1) adjust to the current low level of literacy of the majority of the reading masses; (2) achieve a convergence between the local and national language; and (3) address more promptly the masses' long-standing demand for Iloco versions of revolutionary reading materials such as *Ang Bayan* as well as educational courses. It was agreed upon that pure Iloco words would be spelled in the old way, while “borrowed” terms would be spelled the Pilipino way.

There was recognition of the fact that it was easier to follow the old rules of Iloco spelling because of their internal logic, which required few exceptions. Old rules on spelling and grammar are not changed without basis and without necessity. Otherwise, our writings may look funny to those who are used to the old rules, or worse, may not be understood. For instance, it would be better to maintain the spellings “diario” and “industrialisation” instead of switching to “dyaryo” or “industrialisasyon” because the masses are more familiar with the former. On the other hand, it was recognized that many words from other languages have already been incorporated into Iloco.

Certain improvements were also agreed upon regarding some old Iloco words. In terms of spelling, major consideration was given to the elegance or beauty of sound (euphonics) and appearance. One example would be the way the Iloco translation of *panginoong maylupa* or “landlord” should be spelled.

Apotdaga (from *apo ti daga* or “a lord who owns land”), which is patterned after the English word “landlord”, looks inelegant and seems to have become an entirely different word. *Apo nga addaan-daga*, which is spelled in Pilipino style, is just as devoid of elegance in sound and appearance. It was agreed upon that it would be more appropriate to use *apo't daga* (contracted form of *apo ti daga*) for the singular form. It was possible to use *appo't daga* for the plural form, but it could cause confusion due to its similarity to *apput-daga* which means “covering for the soil”. Besides, it was not euphonically correct. Thus, it was agreed that *dagiti apo't daga* (“landlords”) would be the plural form.

There was recognition of the need to put a premium on precision in translating the content of the revolutionary message. In this regard, the conference recognized the need to develop the use of language and revolutionize it as well, even in the way the masses use it. There was particular recognition of the revolutionary movement's many contributions to the

enrichment of language. Many ordinary people as well as Red fighters learn to read and write within the revolutionary movement. In the process, the masses have imbibed revolutionary abbreviations such as SI (social investigation), CSC (criticism-self-criticism), “agrev” (agrarian revolution) and DA (disciplinary action). There is also widespread use among the Ilocano masses of Pilipino words such as “ulat” (*report*), “lagom” (*summing up*), “sangay” (*branch*) and “hukbo” (*army*) as well as borrowed words such as “pasista”, “kumprador

burgesya” and “imperyalismo”.

Along with this, there was recognition of the need to likewise adjust the use of language to the way the masses use it vis a vis their literacy level, culture and practice. In this regard, there was recognition of the wide range of flexibility in importing, “borrowing” and incorporating terms to broaden the reach of the masses of readers. There was consensus that the masses do not let a “small matter” such as spelling get in their way. As examples, there are words that the masses have gotten used to such as *dyonson* (junction), *bormil* or *bolmil* (ball mill), *pista-im* (peace time) and *bakwit* (evacuate). There were also differences in pronouncing and spelling the sounds represented by “i” or “e” and “o” or “u”, depending on one's province of birth, but these were considered minor points. What was important was for readers to recognize and understand terms.

In the process of translating, the conference agreed to abide by the following general rules, stated in order of importance:

- Look for the nearest equivalent to Iloco. If there are many to choose from, make a choice on the basis of precision and popularity.
- If there is no Iloco equivalent, use and propagate the Pilipino equivalent, such as “lagom”, “sining” (*art*) and others.
- If there is no Pilipino equivalent, one may instead define the word in a simple manner.
- If there is no appropriate translation, use the original.

It is expected that Iloco writers and readers may find it a bit ►



Vigorous, swift and effective action of the masses in guerrilla zones

In Batangas, many remarkable experiences show the mass movement's readiness to struggle militantly against militarization in the course of vigorously supporting the armed struggle.

This has been proven by the many instances where they were able to determinedly, expeditiously and effectively launch concerted actions in defense of their rights and the interest of the revolutionary movement in their community. As such, they are able to blunt the fangs of fascism and raise the level of their courage.

Speedy action to free an arrested comrade. By means of the masses' timely reaction, a Red fighter was promptly freed from the hands of fascist troops. On April 12 at 9:30 in the morning, Mayor Cesar Platon ordered the arrest of Ka Noli, a native of Calaca. Ka Noli was tasked by the Melito Glor Command to deliver an invitation for Platon to talk with the people's army within a guerrilla zone. As soon as Platon received the invitation, he ordered the police to apprehend Ka Noli. Nonetheless, as soon as he was arrested, he was able to send a text message to comrades using the cellphone he had with him.

Comrades, Ka Noli's relatives and townmates in Calaca acted with dispatch. The incident was also instantly reported to Karapatan, a human rights advocacy organization. They all agreed that something had to be done



straight away in order to keep the police and Platon's minions from summarily executing Ka Noli and to have him freed at the soonest possible time.

At 11:00 in the morning, Karapatan representatives arrived at the municipal hall of Tanauan. They learned that Ka Noli had been transferred to Camp Malvar in the neighboring town. Before 2:00 in the afternoon, Ka Noli's relatives and neighbors had arrived at Camp Malvar, accompanied by representatives from Karapatan. They asked to see Ka Noli alive and unhurt. However, Ka Noli was not allowed to face them because he was still allegedly being interrogated. They stood vigil all night at Camp Malvar.

The next day, more of Ka Noli's townmates and friends and people from the various towns of western Batangas arrived. Up to a hundred people rallied right in front of the camp. They demanded Ka Noli's release.

Wanting to avoid the rally, the PNP provincial ►

◄ unsettling at first to use and propagate the conventions agreed upon by the conference. But this is all part of the process of familiarization towards eventual popularization. The conference also agreed on the importance of seeking out feedback from the masses of readers on the new rules to be followed.

The conference achieved a major victory. The revolutionary movement

is determined to reach out to, arouse and raise the consciousness of the broad masses of the people—through their own language, aside from Pilipino. The value of the revolutionary movement's efforts to develop the use of local languages is undeniable—this, along with propagating and developing the use of the national language.

The unities arrived at by the

conference are expected to be a big help to the advancement of revolutionary work and struggle in Ilocos-Cordillera, Cagayan Valley, northern Central Luzon and other areas where Iloco is widely spoken. In particular, the translation and publication of revolutionary reading materials and overall education and propaganda work in Iloco will be revitalized and developed. **AB**

commander ordered that Ka Noli be brought back to Tanauan where charges would be filed against him. The rallyists promptly transferred to Tanauan.

It took a long time for the PNP to bring Ka Noli to Tanauan because he had been taken and tortured by intelligence operatives of the Solcom (Southern Luzon Command) and the PNP Batangas Provincial Office.

Ka Noli's supporters grew suspicious about the long delay in Ka Noli's transport to Tanauan. They launched a rally in front of the municipal hall. Because of the pressure they exerted, the PNP was no longer able to delay the surfacing of Ka Noli any further.

As soon as Ka Noli was brought to Tanauan, the PNP hurriedly filed charges without going through due process. Ka Noli was slapped with a P10,000 bail, which the rallyists immediately raised. Very early the next morning, they posted bail and jubilantly brought Ka Noli home.

The spirited and determined action of the masses to have Ka Noli freed and to save his life served to inspire him even more to decisively overcome all the hardships he experienced in the hands of the enemy. After being freed, he immediately rejoined his unit in the people's army.

Courageous resistance against betrayal. A former fighter of the people's army surrendered to the enemy on June 15. The 20th SF Coy immediately took advantage of this. They launched military operations in the Batangas area where he used to operate so he could point out the houses that he knew were being used as bases by the NPA in those barrios. The SF had planned on intimidating and subjecting the people to psywar to stop them from supporting the people's army. In every village they went to, the SF ordered the barriofolk to gather in front of the traitor they had in tow. The traitor pointed to a bench and said, "Isn't this where I had my hair cut?" He brought his SF companions to a house and said to them, "This is where I used to stay." He even picked a soap dish and said, "Isn't this soap dish mine?"

Instead of being intimidated, this only further stirred up the courage of the masses in the militarized barrios. Everyone there disowned him and openly showed their anger at him and his SF companions. The people looked daggers at him. Others could not help but rebuke him frontally.

The SF conducted operations in the area for a week, but not a single resident yielded, nor faltered in the face of such betrayal against them. There was nothing



the SF could do to pressure and frighten the masses. All that time, an NPA unit was posted nearby. The unit remained calm, because they thoroughly reposed their trust in the masses' all-out support for the people's army.

Speedy mobilization against militarization.

At 2:00 in the afternoon of August 9, an encounter took place in Lopez Coral, Calaca in western Batangas, between an NPA unit based there, and a "Back to Basics Class 01" squad operating in Calaca. Class 01-01 is an SF unit of the Philippine Army, which is under Task Force Banahaw.

Three days before the encounter, the SF had deployed nine sections of Class 01-01 (13-14 people per section) into the farther stretches of western Batangas. The section had also been conducting operations in the barrios for three days.

When the military sought directions, a farmer pointed to the opposite direction in order to mislead the enemy away from the place where he knew an NPA unit was staying. The enemy suspected that the farmer had deceived them, so they took the opposite direction. Thus, the enemy troops encountered the NPA unit. Two enemy troopers were immediately wounded while the entire NPA unit was able to retreat safely.

In desperation, the enemy fired shots indiscriminately in all directions while scampering away. Even the masses' sugarcane crops were hit by machine gun fire. Residents of the vicinity seriously feared for their lives. They planned their move.

Even before this, the people had already been preparing for a mass action against the enemy's frequent militarization of the area. They now transformed this mass action into an urgent indignation rally against the strafing perpetrated by Class 01-01 in their area. The masses held a rally in the barrio without delay. They also sought help from Karapatan. The next day, a fact-finding mission arrived at the barrio to investigate the reported strafing of Class 01-01. They also pushed through with the rally in front of the PNP's 401st Mobile Group in Palico, Nasugbu to complain against the Philippine Army's operations. Due to the people's earlier mobilizations against militarization and human rights violations in the area, an agreement had been reached between the masses and the Calaca PNP as early as 1999. According to the terms of the agreement, the AFP or PNP should inform the people about their operations before conducting them. The people complained against the AFP's uncoordinated and unannounced conduct ►

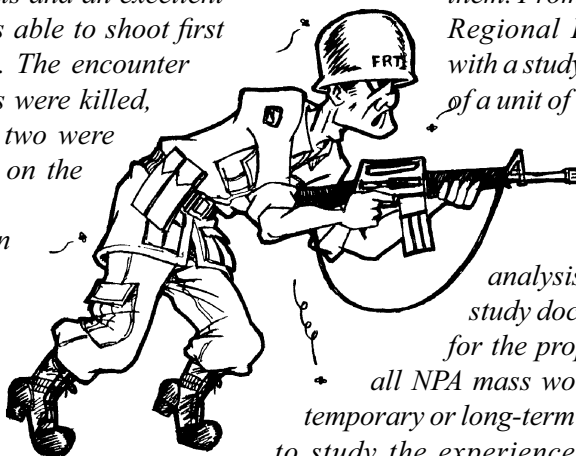
Operations of the Force Recon Battalion of the Philippine Marines

On January 2, 2001 in Sitio Nangkaan, Barangay Mataas na Pulo, Nasugbu, Batangas, a unit of the New People's Army encountered a Philippine Marine team that was carrying out a test mission for Operation Force Recon. The five-man team was slowly crawling through the canefields towards the NPA's post. But due to meticulous vigilance, swift movements and an excellent grasp of military work, the NPA was able to shoot first and immediately seize the initiative. The encounter lasted 15 minutes. Two enemy forces were killed, including the team leader. Another two were wounded. There were no casualties on the side of the NPA.

The NPA confiscated an M14, an ammunition belt, bullets, magazines and a pack. Inside the pack were found documents detailing the orientation of the Force Recon Team (FRT), the enemy unit that the NPA encountered. The documents included a description of the unit's tactics, a transcript of radio exchanges with their leaders

and the team's schedule and itinerary. Also detailed were the unit's equipment and those issued to each team member, as well as the size of the entire formation to which the team belonged.

Information about the movements of the FRT was also provided by some peasants who were able to observe them. From these, the Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee came out with a study document on the movements of a unit of the Philippine Marines of the Philippine Navy (PM/PN) called the Force Recon Battalion (FRBn). The following is a synopsis of the analysis and lessons contained in the study document. The region has called for the propagation of the document to all NPA mass work units as well as forces in temporary or long-term encampments. It is important to study the experiences described so that others who encounter the same situation can undertake the necessary measures.



The Force Recon Battalion is a unit within the Philippine Marines that focuses on counter guerrilla operations and intelligence. Its name was culled from the US Marines' elite special forces, the Force Recon Regiment. The elements of the FRBn are specialized and trained to closely and directly monitor units and areas of operation of the people's army. They started train-

ing only in the latter part of 1998, with the implementation of Oplan Makabayan. Each batch, comprising an undersized company, trains for six months.

Sub-units of the FRBn which are called Force Recon Teams (FRT) are distinctly small and extremely cautious in their movements. The FRBn has six FRTs with each FRT having four to five men each. Each FRT is independent. The teams are

dispersed over a wide area, which may be equivalent to the size of a guerrilla front or a cluster of towns. There may be one or more towns (or a distance that may be covered in one or two days' hike) separating each team. The FRTs' separate movements are coordinated over a wide area. It may take weeks before they return to their mother units or concentrate and report back to their tactical command post.

The FRT operates with a ►

◄ of operations. The 401st MG denied any knowledge about the PA operation and promised to take action on the complaint. The next day, the Class 01-01 operation was terminated.

There are many other examples of effective mobilizations by the masses of Batangas that show their determina-

tion, audacity, wit and capacity to fight for their own welfare and for the growing needs of the revolutionary movement and armed struggle. These prove that the future of the revolution depends on the firmness and courage of the masses both in warding off and defeating the enemy. **AB**

high level of secrecy to achieve its objective of penetrating the consolidated and expansion barrios of guerrilla zones and fronts without being detected. The FRT never makes itself visible to, nor does it establish links with the masses. In contrast with ordinary military units of the enemy, it does not rely on the barrio intelligence network (BIN) for information. Instead, it directly investigates the target area of operation. In these operations, it maintains a high level of discipline to be able to maneuver from the outskirts towards guerrilla zone and guerrilla front heartlands.

Before entering an area of operation, FRT elements familiarize themselves with the terrain and conduct a thorough study of signs of NPA movements in the area. They always move at night and never use flashlights. From the small footprints they leave behind, it is evident that they walk on tiptoe in areas where their shoes can easily leave marks. If there are dogs in the areas they pass



through, they go without bathing for a week. And before carrying out an operation, they smear mud on their bodies to prevent dogs from picking up their scent and also prevent other people from seeing them. As they conceal themselves behind thick foliage, they bring along cans of biscuits and viands, making it unnecessary for them to cook food or leave for several days.

They constantly look out for,

observe and study signs of NPA presence in their areas of investigation: (1) footprints on roads; (2) smoke in mountains and forests; (3) flashlight beams and light from fires along roads, meadows, mountains and forests; (4) sounds made by humans from inside the forests; (5) the scent of soap and a bluish tint in the waters of streams and rivers; (6) an unusual flow of people in an area; and others.

Through close surveillance, the FRBn directly comes to know of the size and firepower of the NPA unit, the terrain it operates in, the NPA's links with the masses, its source of supplies, patterns of movement, trails used, places frequented and utilized as posts. The FRBn has sophisticated instruments. Part of their surveillance and communications equipment are night vision goggles, binoculars, global positioning system instruments, cellphones and radio transceivers. Each element puts on a special type of camouflage for commando operations. This is a piece of garment made out of net material and that is put on and sewn over ordinary camouflage uniforms. Depending on the color of the soil, flora and

The NPA's decisive advantage is its close links to, and the support it enjoys from, the masses. It is on this that the security and the life of the people's army rest, as well as its capacity to defeat the enemy.

surroundings that they would have to crawl on, they bring with them soil-, leaf- and wood- and other similarly colored thick thread (including fabric threads) which they sew on their camouflage uniforms, the better to blend with the colors and overall appearance of their surroundings. They also have pieces of rope with large metal hooks for crossing rivers and for climbing up and down steep slopes.

The FRBn's tasks are different from those of the Recon Force Team (RFT) of the Philippine Marines. The RFT is tasked with providing security to the main body or to the larger formation they belong to. FRTs are combat and security forces in the main and are always on war footing. The FRT is mainly an intelligence force. Its principal task is to gather clear information on the movements of NPA units and feed this for the use of combat forces of the PNP and AFP. The annihilation of the NPA unit they had put under surveillance is the responsibility of combat forces, that come in only after the FRT has furnished them with unmistakable information. Though the FRT is not, in the main, a combat force, it is also highly trained in close quarter battle for defensive purposes, and in sharpshooting from a 400- to 500-meter distance in order to inflict precise damage on the NPA.

The FRBn's movements are also different from those of commando operations carried out by Scout Rangers and Special Forces of the Philippine Army and Special Action Forces and the Regional Mobile Group of the PNP. These are combat

forces trained in small formations. The task of the RFT is to secretly enter NPA bases to carry out strike and combat operations. Nevertheless, there are similarities in the method of operations of these units and those of the FRTs of the FRBn. For instance, there are similarities in the method of intelligence-gathering, such as the use of small units for surveillance.

The use of some FRT tactics has been observed in some defensive ►



RHB: Criminal and counterrevolutionary

The decadence of the roving, bandit and counterrevolutionary “Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan” (RHB) continues to be exposed.

It was in 1997 when the Party expelled a number of incorrigible, factionalist and opportunist renegades in Central Luzon. A few of these elements formed the revisionist and splittist “Marxista-Leninistang Partido ng Pilipinas” (MLPP) that organized and led the RHB armed group.

Initially, the RHB operated in a number of towns in the provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales. Most of its elements have since been neutralized in their previous areas of operation, with only a few of them left in Bataan and Zambales. Because of the NPA’s pursuit and exposure of the RHB in Central Luzon and the latter’s shrinking area of operations in the region, they have penetrated a number of barangays in the towns of General Nakar, Polilio, Infanta and Real in north Quezon; and a few barangays in Dingalan, Aurora.

The RHB’s operations along the Aurora-north Quezon border are led and supervised by Miel “Amanda” Laurenaria, who was expelled as Secretary of the

Southern Luzon Party Committee and was one of those mainly responsible for Operation Missing Link (OPML) in 1988. The OPML led by Laurenaria was a deranged operation involving the surveillance, arrest, torture and killing of many Party cadres and members, Red commanders and fighters and mass activists in Southern Tagalog on the baseless accusation and suspicion that they were enemy agents. Because of her leading role in, and obstinacy regarding, OPML, she was meted disciplinary action. Up till the time she was expelled from the Party for joining the MLPP and RHB, she has bullheadedly insisted on the correctness of OPML.

Because they were former members of the New People’s Army, a number of RHB elements initially found it easy to approach the masses. They peddled the lie that they were the “genuine people’s army”. When they won the sympathy of the masses, they desperately spread concocted stories, intrigues and slander against the Party, NPA and the entire revolutionary movement. To convince confused elements to cross over to their side, they promise them financial support.

But as time goes by, the RHB’s reactionary character is exposed and the list of their acts of counterrevolutionary violence and violations of the people’s human rights grows longer.

The RHB is in cahoots with and is armed by the AFP and PNP. The bandit group directly participates and ►

◀ encounters of the NPA with different military units of the AFP. Though not as extensive in the PNP, some of the latter’s elements have been integrated into the FRT. One example is the integration of elements from the Regional Mobile Group of the PNP in Southern Tagalog with FRT Batch 06.

The FRBn boasts that its name means “force to reckon with”. But as shown in the encounter in Nasugbu on January 2, no matter how sophisticated the tactics and instruments of the enemy, it could

never defeat the NPA.

The NPA’s decisive advantage is its close links to, and the support it enjoys from, the masses. It is on this that the security and the life of the people’s army rest, as well as its capacity to defeat the enemy. In fact, the FRBn’s absence of links to the masses serves more as a disadvantage rather than an advantage. As long as the masses are on the side of the people’s army, the “special forces” of the enemy will be at a gross disadvantage and will likely be defeated.

ALONG WITH THIS, TO FURTHER ENSURE the security and peace of mind of the units and forces of the people’s army, there is undeniable need for greater caution, iron discipline and meticulous study of, and adaptation to, operational and combat conditions and the character and operations of the enemy. Wherever the FRT and other like forces operate, it is imperative to closely study, give due consideration to and carry out appropriate measures against such types of enemy operations and surveillance. **AB**

serves as guide in enemy operations against the NPA and revolutionary mass bases. It allows itself to be used by the military in intelligence operations against the NPA and receives rewards in exchange for information. The RHB's connivance with the enemy has led to enemy attacks and the death of a number of comrades. There have been several incidents where, instead of avoiding contact with the military, the RHB positioned itself near the enemy's entry and exit routes during military operations.

Aside from its links with the military, the RHB also serves as a private army of reactionary politicians and the likes of jueteng lord Bong Pineda. Aside from being guns for hire, they also engage in robbery, extortion and kidnap-for-ransom.

There have been negotiations between the RHB and the military regarding the former's integration into the CAFGU.

Because of the RHB's crimes, it has reaped the anger of the masses it has victimized. The RHB sabotages mass organizations and mass campaigns, such as the launching of agrarian revolution.

Following are a few of the latest documented crimes of the RHB against the people of Pampanga.

- **February 5, 2001 in Barangay San Roque, Sta. Ana.** Harassment and intimidation by armed elements of the RHB against Jesus Pangan, Jose Roxas and Benjamin Macapinlac, members of Aguman dareng Maglalautang Capampangan (AMC). The RHB barged into their respective houses.
- **January 29, 2001 in Barangay Sto. Rosario, Mexico.** Mauling and killing of Orlando "Tang Otning" Panlilio, 56, coordinator of STOP-Land Use Conversion sa Pampanga (STOP-LUC). Still alive after being shot several times, he was hacked to death by the bandits.
- **January 27, 2001 in Barangay San Roque, Sta. Ana.** Encirclement of Tatang Teryo Dizon's house by 16 men from a composite group of RHB and RGA elements. The RGA ("Rebolusyonaryong Gerilya ng Arayat") is a group of former NPA fighters who had surrendered and turned traitor. It now serves as a security force for the Pampanga Delta Development Project, and is thus also called the "Delta Gang". It is ordinarily engaged in extortion activities against subcontractors of

the project.

- **January 6, 2001 in Barangay San Antonio, Mexico.** Murder of Eric Canlas, 24. Canlas was a volunteer worker at the office of the Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD) in the locality and the Fire Brigade in Mexico. He was also a member of Pacific Radio Communication.

- **January 2001.** Encirclement by 30 armed elements of the house of Tatang Primo Guarin, AMC chair. Failing to take Tatang Primo, the RHB shouted "Tatang Primo, *binibigyan ka namin ng dalawang araw para umalis ng Pampanga!*" (we give you two days to leave Pampanga)



Because of the RHB's crimes, it has reaped the anger of the masses it has victimized.

- **December 2000.** Abduction of AMC member Fred Lacanlale, and forcing him to swear to "never have anything to do again with the peasant organizations" in their barrio.

- **December 18, 2000 in front of San Lorenzo Elementary School in Mexico.** Killing of Jesie Bagtas, 37 and Noel dela Cruz, 30, both AMC members and residents of Barangay San Nicolas, Mexico.

- **October 2000 in Barangay San Agustin, Sta. Ana.** Threatened killing of Javier Mallari, vice chair

of the Sta. Ana chapter of AMC, if he refused to stop his organizing activities.

- **September 1999.** Forcible entry of 10 RHB elements into the house of Linda Cayan, AMC Secretary-General. The RHB threatened to kill Cayan if she did not stop organizing the peasants of Mexico. Five other houses of AMC members in Barangay San Nicolas, Mexico were likewise encircled.

Like others who split from and attempted to demolish the revolutionary movement, the MLPP-RHB will be relegated to the dustbin of history because of its antipeople and counterrevolutionary activities. Despite the RHB's certain fate, it is necessary to hasten its destruction to prevent it from wreaking havoc on the masses and the revolutionary movement. The NPA's successful tactical offensives have inflicted damage on this criminal group. Such actions, along with the mass movement that shall continue exposing its counterrevolutionary character, will crush the MLPP-RHB. **AB**

CPLA officially integrated into the AFP

The Macapagal-Arroyo regime has officially integrated the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) into the AFP. Macapagal-Arroyo herself approved the integration in a ceremony in Tinglayan, Kalinga on September 1. The event was celebrated as though it were such a big and propitious one.

The CPLA was set up with former NPA forces deceived by Conrado Balweg through his anti-plaintains line. They split from the Party and NPA in April 1986, taking with them several firearms of the NPA. According to the traitor Conrado Balweg's distorted line, everyone from the plains and who was not a national minority was an enemy of the Igorots of Cordillera. Since then, almost all of the initial elements from the NPA have gone and been replaced by goons. The few remaining former NPA elements, who were all lumpen in character, have become the goons' chieftains.

The CPLA has long served as a paramilitary arm of the AFP and PNP, as Civilian Armed Auxiliaries of the CAGU. The Cordillera Indigenous Peace Keeping Unit (CIPKU) of the faction led by Mailed Molina and James Sawatang of the CPLA is but another name for the CAGU in Bucloc, Abra and Tinglayan, Kalinga. The Cordillera People's Militia (CPM) of the Modesto Sagudang faction of the CPLA is but another name for the vigilantes of Tubo, Luba and Langiden in Abra. The AFP and PNP often bring them along during military operations against the NPA and its mass base, in providing protection for the operations of illegal logging syndicates, in planting marijuana, transporting drugs, extorting from businessmen and the people, harassing and intimidating civilians and in other criminal and lumpen activities.

They also launch operations against the NPA and its mass base as well as criminal operations such as illegal logging. They likewise serve as hired killers and private armies of reactionary politicians and big mining companies. Along with their criminal and lumpen activities, they foment and exacerbate conflicts between tribes. Many of these lead to tribal wars, such as those which erupted between the Betwagan and Butbut tribes and the Saclit and Butbut tribes.

It comes as no surprise that the government has integrated the CPLA into its mercenary army. All things considered, nothing has changed with respect to their character as goons. But only a few of them will be taken in as soldiers and receive higher pay. Most of them will remain as CAGU elements whose low salaries are milked by their leaders and high officials of the AFP or continue as lackeys of their leaders and in the vain hope of becoming AFP regulars.

Due to the CPLA's formal integration into the AFP and their use of this as license, the CPLA can be expected to perpetrate even more evil. They will all the more be exposed, hated and isolated from the broad masses of the Cordillera. **AB**

CRIMES OF THE CPLA

In Kalinga:

- Conrado Balweg, the leader of the CPLA who was meted punishment, himself admitted to abducting and killing Daniel Ngaya-an (Cordillera Bodong Association chair, regional CPA leader and a *panglakayen* or tribal leader of Lubuagan) in Barangay Tanglag, Lubuagan, Kalinga in October 1987.

- A CPLA unit based in Balbalan and led by Dimas "Willy" Tibag killed two leaders of Barangay Salegseg, Santos Gonayon, 61 (January 24, 1988 in Sitio Tawang, Salegseg) and Quirino "Lasi" Ambasing, 50 (September 28, 1988 in Sitio Tawang, Salegseg) as well as a leader of Barangay Gawaan, Martin "Lumidaw" Agnas, 50 (August 30, 1990 in Sitio Dusoc, Gawaan). The victims were respected *panglakayen*.

- Another CPLA unit in Balbalan in cahoots with local PNP and CAGU elements, killed Antonio Laguinday, a barangay health worker, in Barangay Balantoy, Balbalan on July 21, 1989.

- A CPLA unit waging a patrol operation in Barangay Dupag, Tabuk massacred innocent children in Sitio Sabangan, Dupag, Tabuk on May 26, 1989. Killed were Betty Layugan, 2; Mitchi Lagansi, 3; and Simian Molina, 14. Four other persons were wounded, including one who was suffering from a psychological illness.

In Abra:

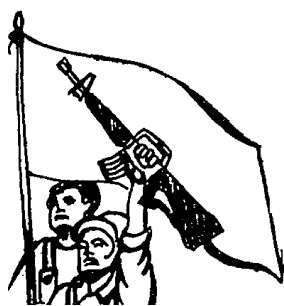
- It was also the CPLA that abducted and killed Romy Gardo (a youth organizer of the CPA in Abra) in Barangay Tiempo, Tubo, Abra on December 28, 1987.

- The CPLA killed by firing squad two farmers, Jonathan Bisnan and Tito Babasa, in Bucay, Abra.

- The CPLA likewise murdered Benito Dang-aw of Tubtuba, Tubo, Abra in 1987.

In Mountain Province:

- Pagpag Afarag of Barangay Can-ao, Bontoc was tortured and killed in Barangay Bekigan, Sadanga, Mountain Province in 1988.



MILITARY SPIES CAPTURED BY NPA IN SULTAN KUDARAT

The Valentin Palamine Command (VPC) of the New People's Army in Far South Mindanao region took as prisoners four operatives of the Military Intelligence Group and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (MIG-ISAFP).

VPC spokesperson Dencio Madrigal announced the capture of Sgt. Jeremias Rosete, Sgt. Pepito Simbulan, Wilfredo Maldecir and Herminia Sorongon. Rosete is an element of the 3rd Marine Battalion Landing Team of the 2nd Marine Brigade and deployed with MIG-Region 12 as a counter-intelligence operative. Simbulan is an element of MIG 11. Maldecir is a former agent of the 601st Brigade, while Sorongon is a member of various organizations connected with the military. They were seized on September 4 in Columbio, Sultan Kudarat.

According to Madrigal, the agents were posing as NPA guerrillas when they were captured. Confiscated from them were a cal .45 pistol, a cellphone, two motorcycles and various IDs.

Madrigal said that negotiations for the release of the four agents must be coursed through the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

NPA RAIDS ARMY DETACHMENT IN KALINGA

An element of the Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Unit or CAFGU was killed when Red fighters raided a military detachment in Tinglayan, Pinukpuk, Kalinga on September 24. Three others, including detachment commander SSgt. Zaldy Cariño, were wounded.

Six Garands and three M14s were confiscated by the guerrillas. The raid was launched at around 2:30 in the afternoon. Reinforcement troops from the 21st IB arrived too late to assist the soldiers.

Meanwhile, on August 29, a sergeant belonging to the Charlie Coy of the 21st IB was killed and three others were wounded in an ambush by three fighters of the Lejo Cawilan Command of the NPA. The ambush was launched at around 11:30 in the morning along the Libang-Mabaca-Gawaan boundary in Balbalan, Kalinga.

The enemy forces scampered and hid. Reinforcements from the 21st IB came at around 3:00 p.m. but the Red fighters had already safely retreated. Due to intense fear, the enemy troops were unable to fire back. They thought they were being ambushed by a big group of Red fighters.

POLICEMAN KILLED IN NPA RAID IN QUEZON

A policeman was killed and another was wounded when Red fighters raided a PNP checkpoint in Barangay Talipan, Pagbilao, Quezon on August 31.

The guerrillas arrived at Barangay Talipan aboard four vehicles. Three fighters directed traffic along the highway to keep civilians from being hit in the attack.

KA PARAGO FREED

Comrade Leoncio "Ka Parago" Pitao was released on September 16 after more than a year and ten months in detention.

Ka Parago was arrested by AFP intelligence operatives in his house at Bago Gallera, Talomo District, Davao on November 2, 1999. This was a few months after he surfaced as the custodian of two prisoners of war, Brig. Gen. Victor Obillo and Capt. Eduardo Montealto, who were captured by the NPA in February 1999.

Ka Parago was detained in Camp Aguineldo under the custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

30,000 RALLY FOR P125 WAGE INCREASE



Thirty-thousand workers led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) held a rally at Mendiola on September 12 to press for a P125 nationwide across-the-board increase in workers' daily wages. Delegations of workers from Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog, Central

Luzon and other places participated in the rally. Bayan Muna congressional representatives Crispin Beltran, Satur Ocampo and Liza Masa likewise attended the rally.

Aside from demanding for a P125 wage increase for workers, the rallyists also demanded a P3,000 across-the-board increase in the monthly salary of government employees. The latter were represented by COURAGE and its umbrella organization, the Alliance of Public Sector Employees (APSE).

Rallyists brought an effigy of Macapagal-Arroyo, which portrayed her as having renege-don a promise she had made when she was still vice president—that she would support the workers' demand for a P125 wage increase.



Simultaneous with the big rally at Metro Manila, militant workers and other democratic sectors also launched demonstrations in other parts of the country.

MARTIAL LAW ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED

In memory of tens of thousands of people who were tortured, killed and became victims of forcible disappearance under the Marcos dictatorship, hundreds of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan members marched to Mendiola on September 2 to commemorate the 29th anniversary of martial law.

The march began at 10:30 in the morning. Demonstrators carried an effigy of Macapagal-Arroyo clad in military attire and with an iron fist. According to the demonstrators, this signifies how the Filipino people remain in the clutches of state militarism and terrorism. The rallyists criticized the pervasiveness of "remnants of martial law" like Panfilo Lacson. They exposed the intensifying violation of human rights, such as the summary execution of Wilfredo Mananghaya, head of BAYAN in San Miguel, Bulacan. They cried for justice for all human rights victims from the time of martial law to the present. They also condemned the "counter-terrorist" war led by the US.

PLANTING OF Bt-CORN IN SOUTH COTOBATO AND ISABELA OPPOSED BY FARMERS

Mass protest actions against the planting of Bt-corn and other GMO (genetically modified organisms) crops are spreading in various parts of the country.

At the end of August, around 500 farmers and others led by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), Masipag and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan entered a 1,700-square meter experimental farm in Barangay Maltana, Tampakan, South Cotabato and uprooted Bt-corn crops planted there. The Bt-corn variety has been transplanted with a gene from the *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) bacteria, which generates a toxin that is lethal to the Asian corn borer pest. Because of this, Bt-corn is capable of producing a pesticide against this insect. But researches indicate that Bt-corn was created without due consideration for the safety of consumers. It is also harmful to the environment. Bt-corn was created by Monsanto, a US imperialist agribusiness company. Monsanto is also the leading cultivator of soybeans (also genetically modified) in Brazil. Monsanto is attempting to penetrate and dominate agribusiness in the Philippines by planting and selling Bt-corn seeds and other types of GMOs in the country.



Prior to this, a rally was held in Koronadal City to oppose the government's grant of a permit for the conduct of GMO experiments. After the rally, the demonstrators proceeded to Barangay Maltana, Tampakan to inspect the place where Monsanto's experiment on GMOs was being conducted. The rallyists discovered that the experiment was being conducted on an open farm. The plantation was bounded only by a wire fence, contrary to guidelines from the National Committee on Bio-safety of the Philippines that experimental farmlands must be surrounded by no less than a 10-foot screen made of synthetic cloth to prevent plants from contaminating crops in other farms in the area. Angered, the people spontaneously entered the farm to uproot the plants.

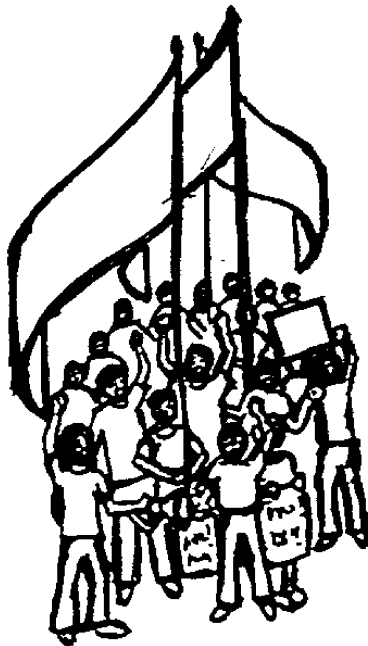
In Echague, Isabela, 800 people launched a caravan to protest Monsanto's experimental planting of Bt-corn in Barangay Carulay, Echague. The protest action was led by the Danggayang Dagiti Mannalon iti Isabela (Association of Peasants in Isabela). The Diocese of Ilagan, Isabela also issued a pastoral letter on the issue. To coordinate the province-wide struggle against GMOs, the Anti-GMO Multi-Sectoral Alliance of Isabela (AGMAIS) was also formed.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND NATIONAL MINORITIES WEEK COMMEMORATED IN 3-DAY PROTEST IN MANILA

More than 500 national minorities from various parts of the country and 400 supporters launched three days of colorful protest actions, camp-outs and pickets in commemoration of Indigenous Peoples and National Minorities (IP-NM) Week. IP-NM was celebrated in the country for the very first time, in accordance with the United Nations declaration in 1993 marking August 11 as "Indigenous People's Day".

The Katipunan ng mga Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas (KAMP or Federation of Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines) led the three-day protest. The Cordillera People's Alliance, Innabuyog-Gabriela (organization of women in the Cordillera), Dumagat and Agta from Cagayan Valley, members of the Central Luzon Aeta Alliance (CLAA), Dumagat from Southern Tagalog and Mangyan from Mindoro attended the protest. The mass action was supported by Anakbayan, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Bayan Muna and its representatives in Congress.

From August 13-15, the demonstrators expressed their firm opposition to and struggle against various policies of the reactionary regime that are antipeople and anti-national minority. Among these are the grabbing of their ancestral lands and destruction of their livelihood brought about by antipeople and anti-national minority policies and "development projects", widespread militarization of their communities and other forms of oppression and discrimination against them.



They firmly demanded the scrapping of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) because these are deceptive instruments that merely conceal and further their oppression and exploitation. They assailed the support given by IPRA and NCIP to the Philippine Mining Act, giant dam projects such as the San Roque Multipurpose Dam, National Integrated Protected Area Systems (NIPAS) and agroforestry projects that advance the interests of big private foreign and local companies and deprive the national minorities of their right to their ancestral lands and traditional livelihoods.

For three days, the national minorities marched and protested in front of Camp Aguinaldo, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples national offices as well as Malacañang. Their request to dialogue with high-ranking government officials was not taken seriously. They were instead faced by lower-ranking officials who scoffed at and belittled them.

Even if high-ranking officials of government refused their request for a serious dialogue, the demonstrators were able to express to the government and the public that the significant voice of 12 million minorities could not be ignored. They stressed that their struggle will intensify for as long as their rights are not recognized and their just demands remain ungranted. They were heartened by the vast support given them by a large number of non-minority progressives.

GMA DISPLAYS PUPPETRY TO JAPANESE IMPERIALISM

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo shamelessly displayed her puppetry when she visited Japan on September 12-16. She boasted that her regime will make "certain" that Japanese capitalists would earn profit should they invest in the Philippines.

"We will do all that is necessary... for you to succeed... because we want you to stay with us" was Macapagal-Arroyo's affirmation to the Japanese capitalists who attended the Philippines-Japan Economic Cooperation at Hotel New Otani in Tokyo.

Macapagal-Arroyo assured the Japanese capitalists that her government favors capitalists over workers. She boasted that the recent strike at the Toyota Motors Philippines was resolved in favor of the capitalists.



FOUL SMELL OF LACSON'S CRIMES REEKING

Sen. Panfilo Lacson and his minions' notoriety continues to be exposed. Angelo "Ador" Mawanay and Mary Ong, former civilian agents of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), named Lacson as the brains, and the PAOCTF as the center, of the drug, kidnap for ransom and other bigtime crime syndicates in the country. Lacson's connections with international drug syndicates were also revealed.

This was followed by Col. Victor Corpus' accounts regarding millions of dollars in deposits in US and Hongkong banks under the name of Lacson, his wife Alice and spouses Joseph and Luisa Estrada.

In related news, the Court of Appeals has dismissed Lacson's case on the salvaging of 11 suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng syndicate.

TXTPOWER FORMED AGAINST GLOBE AND SMART'S AVARICE

Cellphone users and cyberactivists (those who use the internet to further their activism) recently launched TXTPOWER, a coalition of individual cellphone users. TXTPOWER's immediate objective is to oppose and struggle against the plan of the Globe and Smart cartel to reduce free text messages in prepaid plans by 40-60%.

Included in the consumer group's agenda is the struggle against Globe and Smart's greed for additional profits, condemnation of these companies' inefficient service and exposition of the companies' false claims of bankruptcy. The group said that the latter runs contrary to claims in the two companies' websites, where Globe declared a P1.07 billion net profit and Smart P1.8 billion for the first six months of 2001.

With the lapse of the 20-day TRO (temporary restraining order) issued by the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City against the reduction of free text messages by Smart and Globe, their plans are set to be implemented.

ESTRADA CONTINUOUSLY DELAYING HIS TRIAL

Estrada's lawyers continue to delay the speedy opening and conduct of the trial for the plunder case against Joseph Estrada, Jinggoy Estrada and Atty. Edward Serapio.

On September 13, Estrada's lawyers repeatedly delayed the signing of the pretrial agreement which states the rules to be followed during the trial. Along with this, Estrada's lawyers are figuring out ways to nullify one by one the cases filed against him. Lately, they have asked for the invalidation of the case against the illegal use of alias. Prior to this, the Sandiganbayan had issued a series of decisions favoring Estrada. This includes the ban against freezing the operations of Estrada's dummy corporations. The Supreme Court has also banned the live coverage of the trial, which suppresses the right of the people to monitor it closely.

ABU SAYYAF-AFP CONNIVANCE EXPOSED

Witnesses from Lamitan, Basilan emerged one after the other to support Fr. Cirilo Nacorda's testimony on the connivance between the AFP and the Abu Sayyaf. Due to this conspiracy, the Abu Sayyaf has consistently escaped despite the deployment of thousands of troops against them. Most of the arms used by the Abu Sayyaf come directly from the AFP. Nacorda and other witnesses also insisted that they had proof that the ransom money paid to the Abu Sayyaf for the release of some captives were coursed through the high-ranking officers of the AFP and that these AFP officers got their share of the money.

According to Nacorda, the bandit group escaped from the AFP cordon in Lamitan on June 2-3 after officers ordered the retreat of military troops from the Abu Sayyaf's escape route. This testimony was supported by other witnesses. Nacorda pointed at Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, former commander of the 1st Infantry Division and Col. Juvenal Narcise, former commander of the 103rd Infantry Battalion as some of those who received bribe money from the Abu Sayyaf.